

From: joy wolfe

Sent: Thursday, November 12, 2015 3:06 PM

To: Briel, Ron

Subject: Licensure of Certified Surgical Technologists in Nebraska

Mr. Briel,

My name is Joy Wolfe and I have worked for many years as a Certified Surgical Technologist.

I feel it is vitally important that the state of Nebraska create a licensure for Certified Surgical Technologists so that surgeons can use our skills to our full potential for the best outcome for the surgical patients.

To the lay person, CSTs are the unknown staff member in the OR. For the most part, the majority of people think that only surgeons, nurses and anesthesia personnel work in surgery. As a profession, we must continue to inform the non-medical community that we are an important part of the surgical team.

Our knowledge and work is vital for a successful surgical procedure. Our training is by far the most intense and focused of all of the surgery staff members, with the exception of the surgeons. Not just anyone can walk into an OR and scrub for a surgical case and "know what the surgeon wants before they do". Registered nurses and Licensed Practical nurses have little to no surgical experience when they graduate from their programs. They must first be trained (usually by a Surgical Technologist) to even scrub their hands for a case, when they are hired to work in a surgery department. Usually, the RNs that work in surgery have only circulated cases and never scrubbed for a case.

The surgeon is the one who should delegate our duties because they know the skills of the CST. We stand beside the surgeon for hours during a case and are providing hands on care to the surgical patient. The surgeon is in control of the case and it is their responsibility to have the most skilled and qualified personnel helping them. A caring and qualified surgeon wants nothing less for their patients. They want CSTs at the surgical table.

I would be happy to visit with you in person, in regards to this matter. Thank you for your attention.

Joy Wolfe CST